

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 12th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Alvarez, Julia</b>	<b>In the Time of the Butterflies</b>	During the last days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, the three Mirabal sisters were ambushed and assassinated as they drove back from visiting their jailed husbands. The sisters have become mythical figures in their country, where they are known as las mariposas (the butterflies).
<b>Asimov, Isaac</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	As the Galactic Empire declines, psychohistorian Hari Seldon and his band of psychobiologists form the Foundation, designed to be the nucleus of an eventual ideal universal ruling corporation.
<b>Bambara, Toni</b>	<b>The Salt Eaters</b>	Set in a small town somewhere in the South, THE SALT EATERS is the story of a community of black faith healers who, searching for the healing properties of salt, witness an event that will change their lives forever.
<b>Bernier-Grand, Carmen</b>	<b>Frida: Viva La Vida! Long Live Life!</b>	Frida Kahlo, a native of Mexico, is described in poetry, accompanied by her artwork.
<b>Brooks, Geraldine</b>	<b>A Year of Wonders</b>	because of the events that transpired there in 1665-1666, Brooks re-creates a year in the life of a remote British village decimated by the bubonic plague from the perspective of 18-year-old Anna Frith, a widow with two young sons.
<b>Bryson, Bill</b>	<b>Shakespeare: The World as Stage</b>	Author Bryson does what he does best: marshaling the usual little facts that others might overlook to paint a portrait of the world in which the Bard lived and prospered.
<b>Cisneros, Sandra</b>	<b>Caramelo</b>	Celaya "Lala" Reyes, traveling from Chicago to Mexico City each summer, draws together stories of her Mexican-American family of shawl-makers, including her papa and Awful Grandmother.
<b>Cox, Lynne</b>	<b>Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long Distance Swimmer</b>	Long distance swimmer Lynne Cox's remarkably detailed account of her major swims and all that went right and wrong with them.
<b>Du Bois, W. E. B.</b>	<b>The Souls of Black Folk</b>	Part essay, part memoir, and part fiction, this 1903 volume more than any other book brought home just how racist and unjust America could be, and demanded that African Americans be granted access to education and equality.
<b>Faulkner, William</b>	<b>Light in August</b>	Lena Grove's resolute search for the father of her unborn child begets a rich, poignant and ultimately hopeful story of perseverance in the face of mortality.

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 12th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Grisham, John</b>	<b>Street Lawyer</b>	Young lawyer Michael Brock's investigation into the motives of a homeless gunman who was killed by police after taking Brock and eight of his fellow attorneys hostage, leads him to the discovery of a dirty little secret that changes the course of his life and career.
<b>Hardy, Thomas</b>	<b>Return of the Native</b>	Published in 1878, the novel is set in southwestern England. The native of the title is Clym Yeobright, who has returned to the area to become a schoolmaster though his wife, Eustacia Vye, longs for the excitement of city life.
<b>Head, Bessie</b>	<b>When Rain Clouds Gather</b>	A political refugee and an Englishman attempt to modernize a rural Botswana village by updating their farming methods.
<b>Helfer, Andrew</b>	<b>Malcolm X: A Graphic Biography</b>	A brief biography of Malcolm X in graphic novel format that describes his life from his early experiences with racism through his political and religious conversions.
<b>Hinds, Gareth</b>	<b>Beowulf (graphic novel)</b>	A graphic novel adaptation of the Old English epic poem, "Beowulf," in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, returns home to become his own people's greatest king, and then faces a murderous dragon to protect them.
<b>Ishiguro, Kazuo</b>	<b>Never Let Me Go</b>	The students of Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside, are so special that visitors shun them, and only by rumor and the occasional fleeting remark by a teacher do they discover their unconventional origins and strange destiny.
<b>Jordan, June</b>	<b>Soldier: A Poet's Childhood</b>	June Jordan chronicles the first twelve years of her life and discusses how her experiences during those years influenced her writing.
<b>Joyce, James</b>	<b>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</b>	An autobiographical novel depicting the childhood, adolescence, and early manhood of Stephen Dedalus.
<b>Juette, Melvin</b>	<b>Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability and Basketball</b>	The story follows the evolution of Julette, a young Chicago gang member paralyzed by a bullet, from boy to man, from gang member to wheelchair athlete.
<b>Kidd, Sue Monk</b>	<b>The Secret Life of Bees</b>	The story of a young African American girl who, having lost her mother at an early age, sets out to find her roots and is taken in by three beekeepers who tell her the truths she doesn't want to hear.
<b>Kincaid, Jamaica</b>	<b>Annie John</b>	A fictional account of a young girl's coming of age in Antigua.

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 12th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Lahiri, Jhumpa</b>	<b>Interpreter of Maladies</b>	The rituals of traditional Indian domesticity both buttress the characters of Lahiri's elegant first collection of stories and mark the measure of these fragile people's dissolution.
<b>Lansing, Alfred</b>	<b>Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage</b>	The true story of Shackleton's third expedition to Antarctica in 1914 and his attempt to cross the continent overland.
<b>McCall, Nathan</b>	<b>Makes Me Wanna Holler</b>	Washington Post reporter Nathan McCall recounts the story of his journey from troubled youth to professional journalist, providing insight into what it's like to be a young black man in America.
<b>McCarthy, Cormac</b>	<b>The Road</b>	A postapocalyptic novel in which a father and his son walk alone through burned America with only a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food, and each other.
<b>McEwan, Ian</b>	<b>Atonement</b>	between her older sister Cecilia and Robbie Turner, the housekeeper's son, later accuses Robbie of a crime she has no proof he committed and spends years trying to atone for her actions.
<b>McKinley, Robin</b>	<b>Spindle's End</b>	The story embroiders and expands upon the tale of Sleeping Beauty, and creates a cast of action-oriented heroines.
<b>Niffenegger, Audrey</b>	<b>Time Traveler's Wife</b>	Henry De Tamble is a Chicago librarian with "Chrono Displacement" disorder; at random times, he suddenly disappears without warning and finds himself in the past or future, usually at a time or place of importance in his life.
<b>Obama, Barack</b>	<b>Dreams from My Father</b>	The 44 <sup>th</sup> president's memoir of an unusual life.
<b>Parker, Robert B.</b>	<b>Judas Goat</b>	Spenser has gone to London to track down a bunch of bombers who've blown away his client's wife and kids. His job is to catch them. Or kill them. His client isn't choosy.
<b>Peters, Julie Anne</b>	<b>Luna</b>	Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

**District of Columbia Public Schools  
2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 12th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Petry, Ann</b>	<b>The Street</b>	The Street tells the poignant, often heartbreaking story of Lutie Johnson, a young black woman, and her spirited struggle to raise her son amid the violence, poverty, and racial dissonance of Harlem in the late 1940s.
<b>Rawles, Nancy</b>	<b>My Jim</b>	A retelling of the life of Huckleberry Finn's Jim told in the voice of Sadie Watson, an ex-slave who schools her granddaughter with lessons of love she learned in bondage.
<b>Roach, Mary</b>	<b>Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers</b>	A comical-yet-scientific look at the "life" of the dead body throughout history.
<b>Rosoff, Meg</b>	<b>What I Was</b>	A coming-of-age story about two boys in Britain during the 1960s.
<b>Sebold, Alice</b>	<b>The Lovely Bones</b>	14-year-old Susie Salmon relates the awful events of her death and her own adjustment to the strange new place she finds herself.
<b>Shakur, Tupac</b>	<b>The Rose that Grew from Concrete</b>	Written in Tupac's own hand from the time he was nineteen, these seventy-two poems embrace his spirit, his energy — and his ultimate message of hope.
<b>Smiley, Jane</b>	<b>A Thousand Acres</b>	The story of an Iowa farmer who decides to retire in 1979 and turns over his valuable land to his three daughters.
<b>Steinbeck, John</b>	<b>East of Eden</b>	The saga of three generations of the Trask and Hamilton families in the early 1900s in Northern California.
<b>Styron, William</b>	<b>The Confessions of Nat Turner</b>	The novel depicts the odyssey of Nat Turner, leader of first slave revolt in the US.
<b>Verdelle, A. J.</b>	<b>The Good Negress</b>	A young black girl struggles with divided loyalties as she begins to see her family in a new light, after leaving Virginia for Detroit in 1963.
<b>Virgil</b>	<b>Aeneid</b>	Homer's epic poem that relates the wanderings of the Trojan hero, Aeneas, in his efforts to establish a second Troy.
<b>Volponi, Paul</b>	<b>Black and White</b>	Marcus is an African American senior whose best friend, Eddie, is white. Both are basketball stars entertaining scholarship offers from local New York City colleges, but they risk everything for
<b>Voltaire</b>	<b>Candide</b>	The story of a simple, optimistic man whose travels take him from one disaster to another.

**District of Columbia Public Schools  
2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 12th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Vonnegut, Kurt</b>	<b>Slaughterhouse Five</b>	abducted by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore. Like <i>Catch-22</i> , the novel fashions the author's experiences in the Second World War into an eloquent and deeply funny plea against butchery in the service of authority.
<b>White, T. H.</b>	<b>The Once and Future King</b>	The magical epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot; of Merlin and Owl and Guinevere; of beasts who talk and men who fly, of wizardry and war.
<b>Williams, Tennessee</b>	<b>A Streetcar Named Desire</b>	The play recounts how the faded and promiscuous Blanche DuBois is pushed over the edge by her sexy and brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski.